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Bill Also Provides Increases, Advanced Appropriations for Veterans

Washington, DC – Today, Rep. Ben Ray Luján joined his colleagues in the House of Representatives to pass the FY 2010 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act (H.R. 3082), which included key funding for Cannon Air Force Base and the New Mexico Army National Guard in Santa Fe. The FY 2010 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 415 to 3.

“With the transition to a Special Operations mission at Cannon, we are expecting additional personnel to come to Clovis and the base,” said Rep. Luján. “It is important that Cannon has the funding to grow in order to accommodate this increase in personnel. This funding is important as Cannon begins a new mission that will improve our national security and benefit the surrounding community. I am also encouraged that the New Mexico Army National Guard will receive important funding for an aviation facility, supporting construction and jobs in the community.”

The FY 2010 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act included important funding for the Third Congressional District:

New Mexico Army National Guard - \$39,000,000

Army Aviation Support Facility in Santa Fe: \$39,000,000

Cannon Air Force Base – \$68,314,000

Consolidated Communication Facility: \$15,000,000

Special Operation Force AMU Addition (CV-22): \$11,595,000

Special Operation Force Fuel Cell Hangar (MC-130): \$41,269,000

Dormitory (96 Room): \$450,000

The FY 2010 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act will strengthen

quality health care for veterans – including 419,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. In addition to funds for fiscal year 2010, the bill also provides advance funds for veterans health services for 2011, so funding for veterans health care is reliable over the longer term.

“Our brave men and women should get the benefits they have earned and deserve in a timely and reliable fashion,” said Rep. Luján. “This bill provides for advance funding, which will help ensure that veterans health care services are delivered when they need it and not interrupted once in place.”